

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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DEPARTMENT PASS INTERESTED AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN POSTS

EW FO. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD XA EECIKE

SUBJECT: KENYAN POSITION ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH EEC

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SUMMARY. IN SPEECH TODAY TO AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN' S CLUB, FINANCE MINISTER KIBAKI SPOKE ON UPCOMING AFRICAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH EEC (HE CHOSE SUBJECT) AND OUTLINED EXPECTED AFRICAN POSITIONS, INCLUDING U. S. STANDON REVERSE PREFERENCES. END SUMMARY.

2. KIBAKI OUTLINED FIVE PRINCIPAL NEGOTIATION POSITIONS OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES; 1. DUTY FREE AND NO QUOTA ENTRY FOR ALL TROPICAL PRODUCTS; 2. FEELING THAT GENERALIZED PREFERENCES ON SELECTED MANUFACTURES ANNOUNCED BY EEC ARE INSUFFICIENT, AFRICAN COUNTRIES WILL ASK FOR DUTY FREE ENTRY FOR MANUFACTURES AND SEMI- MANUFACTURES; 3. AS SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING KENYA, PRODUCERS AGICULTURAL AND DAIRY PRODUCTS ALSO PRODUCED IN EUROPE AND PROTECTED BY CAP, AFRICAN COUNTRIES WILL ASK
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FOR EXEMPTION FROM CAP AND DUTY FREE ENTRY FOR THESE PRODUCTS;
4. NO REVERSE PREFERENCES; AND 5. NO SPECIAL TREATMENT OF EUROPEAN COMPANIES THAT WISH TO ESTABLISH SUBSIDIARIES IN AFRICA AS NOW PROVIDED IN YAOUNDE CONVENTION. EQUAL TREATMENT FOR ALL COMPANIES.

3. KIBAKI SAID KENYA WAS MOST ENCOURAGED BY AMERICAN POSITION ON REVERSE PREFERENCES. POINTING OUT THAT AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND THE U. S. HAD DIFFERENT REASONS FOR BEING AGAINST REVERSE PREFERENCES, HE SAID THAT OBJECTIVES WERE SAME. HE SAID KENYA HOPED U. S. PRESSURE AGAINST REVERSE PREFERENCES WOULD CONTINUE AS THIS PRESSURE HELPFUL TO OTHER COUNTRIES OPPOSING PREFERENCES.

4. KIBAKI SAID THAT THERE IS NO CONFLICT AMONG AFRICANS ON WHAT CONCESSIONS TO SEEK FROM EEC BECAUSE AFRICAN COUNTRIES PROVIDE SUCH SMALL PART OF EUROPEAN MARKET THAT THEY DID NOT REALLY COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER. THIS STATEMENT WAS IN REPLY TO QUESTION ABOUT DIFFERANT TREATMENT OF PINEAPPLE EXPORTS UNDER YAOUNDE AND ARUSHA CONVENTIONS. HE SAID EQUAL ACCESS WOULD BE ASKED FOR ALL AFRUCAN COUNTGIES.

5. KIBAKI ASSERTED THERE MAY BE SEPARATE APPLICATIONS FOR ASSOCIATION WITH EEC BY SEVERAL BLOCS OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES RATHER THAN SINGLE UNIFIED APPLICATION.
END UNCLASSIFIED.

6. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. AS AN ASIDE, HE INDICATED HIS OPINION THAT OAU DID NOT HAVE CAPACITY TO ACT ON BEHALF OF 43 AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO QUESTION AS TO NEED FOR ASSOCIATION, THE FORM AND MANNER IN WHICH IT WOULD BE NEGOTIATED STILL QUITE UNCLEAR. HE ASKED REPORTERS PRESENT TO NOT REPORT THESE LATTER REMARKS.

7. COMMENT. KIBAKI'S SPEECH REPRESENTED ONE OF THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC STATEMENTS FROM AN EAST AFRICAN MINISTER OF FUTURE AFRICAN - EEC RELATIONSHIPS. HIS SUPPORT FOR A FREE ACCESS PRINCIPLE TO THE EEC FOR AFRICANS IS ENCOURAGING TO U. S. INVESTORS, SUCH AS DEL MONTE AND AVON PRODUCTS INTERNATIONAL, WHO HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL STAKE IN THE EUROPEAN MARKET FOR THEIR KENYA PRODUCTS. HIS COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS ON THE U. S. POSITION

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ON REVERSE PREFERENCES CAME AS A PLEASANT SURPRISE AND SAS THE FIRST PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AT HIS LEVEL OF THE HARMONY OF INTERESTS BETWEEN EAST AFRICA AND THE UNITED STATES ON THIS ISSUE.

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